

## DISTRICT 2 – COAL MINE NEAR MISS

On January 9, 2016 a non-fatal accident occurred when a beltman was struck by a metal wedge. The victim was observing conveyor belting being pulled onto belt structure by a wire rope attached to a battery powered scoop when the accident occurred. As the scoop began pulling the conveyor belt, the cable connection caught on the belt structure causing tension on the wire rope. The increased tension on the undersized wire rope pulled it through the socket/wedge connector causing the wedge to become a 2 pound projectile. The wedge travelled approximately 31 feet and struck the victim in the cheek resulting in fractured bones and facial lacerations.



### Best Practices

- Use proper sized components for all tool assemblies.
- Train miners and supervisors to use proper procedures and tools.
- Use tools only for their proper application.
- Place your body clear of failure hazards when towing or pulling with wire rope.
- Before performing any job, consider all hazards and implement formal procedures that address possible hazards.

